JAY, John

New York delegate to Congress, 1774; appointed a member of the Secret Committee of Correspondence, 1775; chairman of the Secret Committee of Safety, 1777; member and President of the Continental Congress, 1778; appointed U.S. Minister to Spain, 1779; negotiator of treaty of peace with Great Britain, 1782-84; elected Secretary of Foreign Affairs (State), 1784-89; Chief Justice, U.S. Supreme Court, 1789-95; treaty negotiator on behalf of President Washington with the British, 1794; Governor of New York, 1795-1801.

"...There are cases where the most useful intelligence may be obtained, if the persons possessing it can be relieved from apprehensions of discovery. Those apprehensions will operate on those persons whether they are actuated by mercenary or friendly motives; and there doubtless are many of both descriptions who would rely on the secrecy of the President who would not confide in that of the Senate, and still less in that of a large popular assembly. The convention have done well, therefore, in so disposing of the power of making treaties that although the President must, in forming them, act by the advice and consent of the Senate, yet he will be able to manage the business of intelligence in such a manner as prudence may suggest."

—John Jay
The "Federalist"

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